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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from the Ohrdruf Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 May to 6 June 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 July 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. During the period from 20 May to 3 June 1952, almost all of the Altes Lager, the barracks installation on Arnstaedterstrasse and the low barracks buildings on the Ohrdruf (M 51/J 15)-Crawinkel road were occupied to capacity. A large number of tents each with a capacity of about 12 men and all occupied was noticed in addition to the solid barracks buildings in the hutments northwest of Crawinkel. (1) Troops observed there wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with tank insignia. The troops in Ohrdruf and in the installations on the eastern edge of the town wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and artillery insignia and some with motor transport insignia. On 23 May, trucks [REDACTED] carrying troops with rifles and boxes and another four trucks left the Altes Lager in Ohrdruf toward Crawinkel. Motor vehicle [REDACTED] was observed entering and leaving the Altes Lager. (2)

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2. The following troop trains were observed in the area of the Ohrdruf troop training grounds during the period from 23 May to 3 June:
23 May. At 6 p.m., a troop train carrying 8 tanks, 13 trucks, 3 sedans, 5 sidecar motorcycles and 200 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia on the Hochheim railroad station near Erfurt. The train was headed toward Gotha.
28 May. At 8:30 p.m., two troop trains each carrying at least 25 tanks, 5 or 6 trucks, 2 to 4 sedans and about 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets on the Gotha railroad station headed toward Eisenach. The trains left toward Eisenach at about 9:45 p.m. (3)

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3 June. At 9:40 a.m. a troop train carrying 16 T-34/85 tanks; 30 canvas-covered trucks with scaffolds on them, probably SP guns; 9 trucks including [REDACTED]; 3 sedans; 4 sidecar motorcycles; and about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia, in the Erfurt railroad station. The train was headed toward Eisenach. (1) and (2)

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3. On 5 June, an AA gun column consisting of: 27 AA guns of about 85-mm caliber; numerous trucks including [REDACTED]; and a total of about 150 troops arrived at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds. The column came from the direction of the Thuringian Mountains. (4) On 6 June, [REDACTED] the area near the troop training grounds that many of the trucks [REDACTED] (1) Motor vehicle [REDACTED] in the streets of Ohrdruf included:

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Comments.

(1) The bulk of the 20th Gds Mtcz Div has been in the Crawinkel area for summer training since late April. This is confirmed by the motor vehicle [redacted] with the troop train in Erfurt on 3 June reported in paragraph 2 and those observed in Ohrdruf.

(2) The bulk of the 39th Gds Mtcz Rifle Div is permanently stationed in the Altes Lager in Ohrdruf, except for motor vehicle [redacted]

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[redacted] at the Altes Lager as well as with the troop train at the Erfurt railroad station on 3 June, see paragraph 2, the present report contains no indication as to the presence of this division.

However, another report confirmed various units of the 39th Gds Mtcz Rifle Div [redacted] in connection with troop trains coming from and going to Ohrdruf prior to 3 June. [redacted]

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(3) The identity of these trains is undetermined.

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(4) According to the caliber, the motor vehicle [redacted] number of guns, this column belonged to the unidentified AAA regiment of the XXVIII Gds Mtcz Rifle Corps which had probably returned from the Wustrow troop training grounds a short time ago. This regiment was transferred from its military post in Rudolstadt to Wustrow beginning on 16 March and, on 2 June, began to return from there. [redacted].

(5) [redacted]

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